

our veterans have access to the training, the assistance, and the capital to start and manage a business.

Congress passed The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 establishing the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to provide all of these crucial aspects of entrepreneurship to veterans.

As a result of that landmark legislation, the Veterans Corporation has provided training to over 8,000 veterans and has helped over 550 veterans start businesses during 2006 alone.

Unfortunately, Congress has yet to reauthorize the Veterans Corporation, leaving its funding in question each year.

It was an honor to offer an amendment to the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2007 (H.R. 5672) in June increasing its funding to \$1.5 million for the next fiscal year.

Now, I join with Mr. EVANS and Ms. HERSETH to introduce legislation ensuring funding for this worthy program through 2012.

By passing this legislation, we can make sure our brave service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will have access to entrepreneurship training.

Those who are courageously fighting abroad deserve the opportunity to start a business and achieve that aspect of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to act on this legislation and encourage business ownership for veterans.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on my colleagues in Congress to refocus their efforts on comprehensive immigration reform. What we need is not to debate and pass a bunch of bills that duplicate legislation already passed by the House—legislation that has little chance of passage in the Senate. What we need is to get back on track with what the bipartisan 9/11 Commission has repeatedly called for—comprehensive immigration reform. Only when we enact comprehensive reform will we be truly effective in securing our Nation's borders.

Today we are considering three bills, which do little to fix our Nation's illegal immigration problems. We need to do more, and we need to do it in a sensible, bipartisan and comprehensive fashion. The American people expect Congress to secure our borders, and that extends to understanding who currently resides in our country and why they are here. Just as importantly, in considering border security legislation, we need to focus on securing weapons of mass destruction to ensure they do not make their way through our ports of entry. I find it redundant and unnecessary that we are going back to consider legislation that has already been passed by this body when there is so much unfinished business we ought to be focusing on.

We need to focus on "smart security" and develop a comprehensive plan. I continue to

support the Kolbe-Flake-Gutierrez bill, which is a broad and multi-faceted approach to securing our borders. Under this legislation, we would hire and train more border patrol agents to secure our borders, improve our surveillance technology, and require employers to verify the status of their employees. This proactive approach ensures we keep those wishing to harm us out of our country and allows us to ascertain precisely who is in our country and why they are here.

We also need to refocus our efforts on monitoring exactly which materials come through our borders. As the lead Democrat on the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack, I have called for the installation of radiation portal monitors at designated ports of entry to screen all inbound cargo for radiological or nuclear materials. I am dedicated to ensuring we have this important technology at every entry point.

However, instead of addressing these real problems, the Republican leadership has chosen to bring up legislation that we have already passed—not because they want a solution to our immigration problem, but because they need to distract the American public from their inability to accomplish any real reforms. My Democratic colleagues and I have fought for increased funding for more border patrol agents, detention beds, and immigration and customs agents, but Republicans have voted against those efforts 10 times.

I call on my colleagues to refocus their efforts to enact a comprehensive immigration plan. Time in the 109th Congress is quickly running out, and we are doing our country a disservice when we focus on political rhetoric instead of real solutions. It is time to get back on track with what the bipartisan 9/11 Commission has tasked us with—comprehensive reform.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. J. BAZZEL MULL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Rev. J. Bazzel Mull, a true Tennessee legend and Southern gospel icon, passed away on September 5 at the age of 91.

Just five days later, he and his beloved wife, Elizabeth, would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

No couple could have been more loyal to each other than they were, and Rev. Mull's most famous line was "ain't that right, Mrs. Mull?"

Rev. Mull served God and the people of East Tennessee throughout his life.

He brought enjoyment to millions through his television programs, his radio stations, and his live gospel music shows.

Through all this, as well as his personal testimony, cheerfully overcoming blindness, he led countless numbers to a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

He had a great sense of humor and once told me on his TV program that no one should be a mugwump. He said that was "a fellow with his mug on one side of the fence and his wump on the other."

This Nation is a better place today because of the life of Rev. J. Bazzel Mull.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the story by Doug Mason which was published in the Knoxville News Sentinel on September 6.

[From KnoxNews, Sept. 6, 2006]

SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC ICON DIES AT 91

(By Doug Mason)

"Ain't that right, Mizz Mull?"

The Rev. J. Bazzel Mull, who died Tuesday at age 91, may be the most quoted man in East Tennessee.

For 60 years, his gravel-truck voice was a staple of regional radio and TV, and his familiar query to his wife and "Mull Singing Convention" co-host was a much-mimicked catchphrase to generations of East Tennesseans.

Elizabeth Mull was best known as "Mizz Mull" or "Lady Mull" to listeners of the "Mull Singing Convention" broadcasts. The couple would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary on Sunday.

J. Bazzel Mull (the "J" stood for Jacob) was born Oct. 4, 1914, in Burke County, N.C. He began preaching in 1939 and moved to Knoxville in 1942, where he began a radio program on radio station WROL-AM. Later, he was heard on WNOX-AM.

The Rev. Mull owned several East Tennessee radio stations during his long career. At the time of his death, he was the owner of gospel radio station WJBZ, Praise 96.3, in Knoxville.

"The Mull Singing Convention," which moved to television in 1956, is still broadcast at 7 a.m. Sundays on WVLTV, Channel 8. The program was seen on WBIR, Channel 10, before moving a few years ago to WVLTV.

"The Mull Singing Convention" celebrated its 50th anniversary in August. The Rev. Mull's grandson, Doug Hutchison, said the program is confirmed as the longest-running locally produced television show in the United States.

Elizabeth Mull and daughter Charlotte Mull Hutchison now host the program. The Rev. Mull withdrew from the TV show, and from his Sunday evening preaching service on WJBZ, after suffering a stroke about nine months ago.

Hutchison said his grandfather's stroke brought on dementia. Several other strokes followed, including one about a week and a half ago that left the Rev. Mull unresponsive. He was moved from the hospital to a nursing home, where he died at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The Rev. Mull was a businessman who promoted Southern gospel music concerts and published and distributed a series of six "Mull's Singing Convention" songbooks. The latest hymnal was published as "Number 7" in the series, even though it followed edition No. 5.

"He didn't like the number 6," said Hutchison, who explained that he doesn't know why (perhaps it was because 666 is the biblical Mark of the Beast).

"For a blind man to achieve as much as he did, he was bound to have some eccentricities," said Hutchison, who manages WJBZ and the other Mull family enterprises.

The Rev. Mull lost his sight at 11 months old, the result of falling into an open-pit fire. "Through his 20s he could tell daylight from dark," Hutchison said. "But from his early 30s on, he was completely blind."

Hutchison said that many people didn't realize his grandfather was blind. In public, he wore oversized glasses with thick lenses—possibly to obscure the fact that he often had his eyelids closed during his TV broadcasts, Hutchison theorized.

"He was never one to bring to the forefront his handicap," the grandson said. "I talk to people still today that did not know he was blind."

Elizabeth Mull—who met her future husband at a church revival in Lenoir City—was “100 percent his eyes,” Hutchison said.

“Everywhere they went, she drove him; she led him everywhere.” She also read the Bible to the Rev. Mull.

As a young man, it was sometimes Hutchison’s job to guide his grandfather to the microphone to emcee the gospel concerts he promoted.

During the 1970s and early ’80s, the Rev. Mull presented 60 to 75 concerts a year throughout the Southeast, Hutchison said.

More recently, “Mull Singing Convention” concerts have been limited to two per year at Governor’s Palace in Sevierville.

During his broadcast heyday in the 1960s and ’70s, the Rev. Mull was heard on a network of powerful radio stations that carried his preaching and concerts coast-to-coast.

Family vacations were rare, said Hutchison, who said his grandfather “believed in work.”

Once, however, the family took a trip to the Bahamas, and a waiter at a restaurant instantly recognized the Rev. Mull’s voice when he ordered a meal. The Bahamian was a regular listener to the “Mull Singing Convention,” which reached the islands via New Orleans radio station WWL.

J. Bazzel and Elizabeth Mull were inducted into the Gospel Music Association Gospel Music Hall of Fame and the Southern Gospel Music Association’s Southern Gospel Hall of Fame.

The Rev. Mull presented top Southern gospel acts at his concerts, including fellow Hall of Fame members the Chuck Wagon Gang. Hutchison said his grandfather discovered the group, moving it from Texas to Knoxville.

Like his good friend Cas Walker, the millionaire grocer and politician who died in 1998 at age 96, the Rev. Mull truly achieved the status of icon in his home region.

Most longtime Knoxvilleans have a J. Bazzel Mull story to tell, or at least have uttered a gravelly “Ain’t that right, Mizz Mull?” at some point in their lives.

The Rev. Mull had personality, his grandson said. “He loved to laugh and he loved to preach. And he would mix the two. He’d tell a joke to break the ice, then he would preach to you before you knew what happened.”

That voice the Rev. Mull’s extended neighbors knew so well and loved to imitate was naturally his own, his grandson said. “He never smoked; he never drank, nothing. That was just his voice. And it was very distinctive.”

WJBZ will pay tribute to the Rev. Mull all this week. Listeners and gospel music artists will share their memories on air.

The funeral service will be Thursday at Mann Heritage Chapel, 6200 Kingston Pike.

Receiving of friends will be 2-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., with a service following. The Revs. Mike Ramage and Dino Bray will officiate.

The burial service will be 11 a.m. Friday in Lenoir City. Internment will be at Lakeview Cemetery at Lenoir City Park.

“It’s hard to be sad for him at 91,” Hutchison said of his grandfather’s death. “The sorrow is for us, the joy is for him. He can see now and the first thing he had ever seen was the face of Jesus.”

TRIBUTE TO OBERLIN COLLEGE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Oberlin College and its

distinguished African American alumni during the October 6-8, 2006 reunion of the Oberlin College Alumni Association’s affiliate group, the Oberlin Alumni Association of African Ancestry. The reunion entitled, “And We Rise! . . . Celebrating over 170 years of the Black Presence at Oberlin College,” acknowledges the historic and present contributions of Oberlin College and its illustrious African American alumni toward the establishment of a world and a nation based upon the principles of social and economic justice.

We commend Oberlin College for its remarkable role in fostering higher education among African Americans and we encourage Oberlin’s African American alumni to keep engaged with their alma mater to ensure that future generations will have educational access to develop the skills needed to address the complex challenges that face our people and our Nation in the days ahead.

RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution calling on the people of the world and their religious and political leaders to work towards ecumenical understanding and interfaith dialogue.

Usually, it is not my habit to address religious issues on the floor. I strongly believe in a person’s right to religious freedom, as well as the separation of church and state. However, due to recent incidents in various parts of the world I am deeply concerned about the apparent lack of religious respect and tolerance. Therefore, I could not stand by without introducing this resolution.

Not just Christians and Jews, but also Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and the followers of many other religions believe in values like peace, respect, tolerance and dignity. These are values that bring people together and enable us to build responsible and solid communities. I strongly believe that this is what religion is, or should be about. People all over the world share these universal values.

While few religious leaders and scholars would doubt the commonalities that exist among the various religious groups, the followers of these religions unfortunately struggle in their effort to peacefully coexist. It is my impression that too often, the differences in belief are stressed instead of their common grounds. Too frequently, religious feelings get hurt—sometimes intentionally, but more often, unintentionally.

In the last few weeks, we have again witnessed a lack of mutual understanding and misled reaction. These recent events have shown that even religious leaders are sometimes prone to lacking the adequate sensitivity in dealing with other people’s beliefs. The reaction to this incident on the other hand was definitely disproportional, which indicates that the situation was used for political reasons.

The specific incident I am referring to is this: His Holiness Pope Benedict’s debatable statement about the prophet Muhammad at a German university two weeks ago and the fol-

lowing unrest in parts of the Arab world. The subsequent unrest resulted in the murder of a nun in Somalia and the burning of churches in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned that many regions of this world are suffering from the effects of armed conflicts with religious aspects. I believe that the differences of faith are not the real reason for these conflicts. As a matter of fact, religious differences are actually exploited to convince people to participate in primarily political conflicts.

Given the fact that most religions share basic values, it is most unfortunate that religious people can be played off against each other so easily. One possible reason for this may be that people do not know enough about other people’s beliefs.

This resolution encourages the peoples of the world and their political leaders, including the ones in our country, to learn about their neighbor’s beliefs.

I am convinced that religious and spiritual understanding plays a positive role in facilitating trust and overcoming political differences.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution expresses our assistance for all projects that support a productive and constructive inter-faith dialogue. I know that there are people here in the States and in many other countries of the world, working hard on this issue. I am aware of the fact that some of them risk their political and social credibility or even their lives. All of them deserve our deepest recognition.

Moreover, I want us to urge political and religious leaders, and all peoples of the world, to move forward in a conciliatory spirit, to deal with religious matters in a responsible and balanced way, and to focus on their common grounds.

We all know that there will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions, and we also know that there will be no peace among the religions without a dialogue among the religions. To support this dialogue and to show that we are conscious of its importance, I ask you to support this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Holy Family Catholic Community parish in Glendale, California. In 2007, Holy Family will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Holy Family Catholic Community was founded in 1907, in Glendale, California by Father James O’Neal. The parish originally consisted of only 15 members, who met for weekly services in residential homes. Today, the parish proudly counts over 4,000 families in its membership.

The Holy Family Catholic Community is committed to emphasizing education for the young people of the community. The parish operates both a high school and a grammar school, and hosts annual fundraising events in order to fund quality education for its students. For over a decade, Holy Family High School has sent 100 percent of its graduating seniors